

AECCS – State Plan – Draft Implementation Schedule – Early Care & Education Work Group

Early Care and Education Work Group

EC & ED Program Specific Needs/Issues	Program(s) to address need	Goal/Mission Statement	Action Step(s)	Party Responsible	Projected Date of Completion
1. Implement a statewide early care and education quality rating system/incentive program	A) Quality Rating Scale Work Group (sub-group of Early Care & Ed) and AECCS/QRS Advisory Groups	1. Draft a plan for tiered system of quality in Arkansas that will enable cc providers to voluntarily increase quality through technical assistance, training, tiered reimbursement and other incentives	a. Convene group to draft and develop the QRS plan, incorporating input from all AECCS work groups	DHHS/DCCECE, AR Dept. of Education; private cc providers, CCR&Rs, ABC programs, higher ed., work group members from all AECCS work groups	09/06 – 12/06
			b. Completed QRS draft reviewed by outside consultants	Child Care Bureau	12/06
			c. Revised QRS plan shared with AR EC Commission, child care provider focus groups, etc. for input and revision	QRS Sub-Group, DHHS/DCCECE	09/06 – 08/07
			d. Accountability issues and data collection, technical requirements anticipated	DHHS/DCCECE – Northrup Grumman	09/06 – 08/07
		2. Prepare to launch “Phase One” of Arkansas Quality Rating System	a. Issue RFP for TA/Tool Kit and Website	DHHS/DCCECE; Tool Kit contract	09/06 – 12/06
			b. Develop and test TA/Tool Kit	AECCS QRS Advisory Groups (all AECCS work groups)	01/07 – 9/07

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(continued) 1. Implement a statewide early care and education quality rating system/incentive program	(continued) A) Quality Rating Scale Work Group (sub-group of Early Care & Ed) and AECCS QRS Advisory Groups	(continued) 2. Launch “Phase One” of Arkansas Quality Rating System 3. Expand QRS implementation by 15% during second implementation year	(continued) c. Enlist program sites for “Phase One” (first cohort) QRS implementation	(continued) DHHS/DCCECE	(continued) 09/06 – 9/07
			d. Utilize continuous evaluation model during QRS implementation, with quarterly reports, refinements, etc.	DHHS/DCCECE; QRS evaluation team; Northrup Grumman	09/07 – 9/08
			a. Enlist additional sites for second year of QRS implementation	DHHS/DCCECE	09/08 – 08/09
			b. Maintain and expand web version of TA/Tool Kit	DHHS/DCCECE; Tool Kit contract and AECCS Advisory Groups	09/08 – 08/09
			c. Utilize continuous evaluation model during QRS implementation, with quarterly reports, refinements, etc.	DHHS/DCCECE; QRS evaluation team; Northrup Grumman	09/08 – 08/09

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(continued) 1. Implement a statewide early care and education quality rating system/incentive program	(continued) B) “Quality Counts” PR campaign	(continued) 1. Develop and implement a robust public education campaign that will create a demand for high quality early care and education experiences and inform parents and informal caregivers about the importance of the first five years.	(continued) a. Convene partners and determine parameters of campaign b. Engage Arkansas ad agency to develop outreach and education, initial concepts, strategies and timelines c. The Communications Group develops PowerPoint Presentation for outreach to potential corporate partners, and inreach to agency partners d. Research and development phase, incorporating regional parent focus groups d. Launch three-year PR campaign with “Quality Counts” branding strategies, media, publicity, and targeted community events	(continued) Quality Campaign sub-group appointed from EC & ED work group Quality sub-group partners; The Communications Group DHHS/DCCECE; Arkansas Early Childhood Association DHHS/DCCECE; Quality Campaign sub-group DHHS/DCCECE; The Communications Group; Corporate Partners	(continued) 09/06 – 08/07 09/06- 08/07 09/06 – 08/07 09/06 –08/07 09/06 – 08/09

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2. Implement a Child Care Health Consultation support network for the purpose of improving quality and strengthening the health, safety and quality of early care and education service delivery and otherwise support early care and education programs across the state in matters regarding health issues.	A) Early Childhood Health Initiative – program that will target 5 ABC programs in Batesville, Hope, Monticello, N. Little Rock, and Paris	1) Provide access to health, nutrition, and safety education for children in child care, their families, and child care providers	a. Provide Child health coordinators to link community resources, cc providers, classrooms and families b. Provide classroom-based assessment (NAP SACC) to all program participants c. Provide mental health screening (DECA) to all program participants d. Provide TA to sites, base interventions on assessments, continuous evaluation	DHHS/DCCECE – Arkansas Better Chance public Pre-K programs	09/06 – 08/07
	B) AECCS Medical Homes QRS Advisory Group	1) Provide guidance and expertise to contracted entity in development of QRS materials relating to health and medical home issues	a. Develop materials to satisfy requirements of Quality Rating Scale “Parent/Family/Community Partnerships” performance measure, as they relate to health and medical homes issues	DHHS/DCCECE-DOH; Medical Homes QRS Advisory Group; TA/Tool Kit Developer	09/06 – 08/07

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(continued) 2. Implement a Child Care Health Consultation support network for the purpose of improving quality and strengthening the health, safety and quality of early care and education service delivery and otherwise support early care and education programs across the state in matters regarding health issues.	(continued) C) AR Immunization Registry	(continued) 1. Facilitate up-to-date and easily accessible immunization information for children in child care, increasing immunization rates and preventive services for children in child care.	(continued) a. DHHS, DOH and DCCECE update policies, allowing child care providers to access Immunization Registry	(continued) DHHS/DCCECE (Licensing Unit)- DOH (Immunization Registry)	(continued) 09/06- 08/07
			b. Educate child care providers on use of Immunization Registry		09/07 – 08/08
			c. Fully implement utilization of immunization data available to all licensed child care facilities		09/08 – 08/09
3. Support other early care and education initiatives (including child care subsidy programs) sponsored by the Child Care Bureau and Head Start Bureau	A) ADE/Special Ed. Early Childhood Behavior Specialist Program	1. Provide mental health and social-emotional development training, consultation, TA, and support to preschool children and ec providers and professionals	a. Each of the (15) Education Service cooperatives-Special Ed Early Childhood Programs and the Tri-District Special Education Early Childhood Program to hire at least one behavior specialist. b. ADE/Special Education Unit to provide ongoing training for specialists	ADE/Special Education and DHHS/DCCECE – Arkansas Better Chance Programs	09/06 – 08/07 09/06 – 08/09

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(continued) 3. Support other early care and education initiatives (including child care subsidy programs) sponsored by the Child Care Bureau and Head Start Bureau	(continued) A) ADE/Special Ed. Early Childhood Behavior Specialist Program	(continued) 1. Provide mental health and social-emotional development training, consultation, TA, and support to preschool children and ec providers and professionals	(continued) c. Develop the specific guidelines for the implementation of the program between the cooperatives, Tri-District and local early childhood programs d. Begin the direct provision of services for preschool children and consultation to early childhood providers	(continued) ADE/Special Education and DHHS/DCCECE – Arkansas Better Chance Programs	(continued) 09/06 – 08/09
	B) Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Project	1. Enhance the capacity of child care centers/teachers to prevent and manage mental health problems in children	a. Provide teacher training and consultation; conducting large and small group classroom activities	DHHS/DCCECE and DBHS; Head Start Collaboration office; Ozark Guidance Center; Counseling Associates; Mid-South Health Systems; UAMS Partners For Inclusive Communities	09/06 – 08/07

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(continued) 3. Support other early care and education initiatives (including child care subsidy programs) sponsored by the Child Care Bureau and Head Start Bureau	(continued) B) Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Project	(continued) 2. Enhance the capacity of parents to prevent and manage mental health problems in children	(continued) b. Conduct Parenting education classes	(continued) DHHS/DCCECE and DBHS; Head Start Collaboration office; Ozark Guidance Center; Counseling Associates; Mid-South Health Systems; UAMS Partners For Inclusive Communities	(continued) 09/06 – 08/07
		3. Improve the outcomes of children enrolled in the collaborating child care programs	c. Screen children for behavioral concerns and protective factors (DECA); make referrals for individual mental health services		09/06 – 08/07
		4. Enhance the capacity of mental health professionals to manage mental health problems in children	d. Collaborate with local colleges and universities to offer training opportunities to students		09/06 – 08/07

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(continued) 3. Support other early care and education initiatives (including child care subsidy programs) sponsored by the Child Care Bureau, Head Start Bureau, etc.	(continued) C) Early Childhood Oral Health Initiative – two regions of the state participating in engagement and education of HS/EHS staff to promote oral health in young children	(continued) 1. Promote and increase access to quality, comprehensive, culturally competent preventive, diagnostic and treatment practices to improve oral health	(continued) a. Provide evidence-based parent education for oral health b. Provide caries risk assessment c. Provide anticipatory guidance d. Administer fluoride varnish to children at risk for dental caries	(continued) UAMS Dept. of Dental Hygiene; UAMS College of Nursing – Graduate pediatrics; Delta Dental Plan of Arkansas; Arkansas head Start – State Collaboration Project, Child Development, Inc.	(continued) 09/06 – 08/09

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(continued) 3. Support other early care and education initiatives (including child care subsidy programs) sponsored by the Child Care Bureau, Head Start Bureau, etc.	(continued) D) Arkansas Project for Children with Deaf-blindness	(continued) 1. To serve those (birth – 21) who are deaf-blind or are at risk of being deaf-blind, affording them inclusive settings for educational, vocational, recreational and community environments	(continued) a. Advisory Committee (parents, consumers, students and service agency representatives) oversees activities b. Provide resources to those identified as deaf-blind: resource library, educational materials, parent support, family and professional networking, sharing of effective practices c. Provide training and TA to those working with deaf-blind, based on needs expressed by local school district or individual agency d. Provides registry of children (birth – 21) who have been identified as deaf-blind	(continued) Arkansas Department of Education	(continued) 09/06 – 08/09

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4. Increase the capacity of early childhood providers to deliver high quality childhood care and education through the provision of supervision, training and technical assistance	A) Curriculum Review Committee	1. Advise and recommend to DCCECE regarding which curricula will be identified as “approved” for use in state funded and ‘Quality Initiative’ supported programs	a. Steering Committee oversees work of three specific areas: Early Childhood (3-5); Infant Toddler (0-3); and School Age.	Partners represented: Higher Ed (U of A, ASU, Pulaski Tech); Public Pre-K teachers and administrators; Head Start, Dept. of Ed.; Dept. of Ed./Early Childhood Special Ed; Quality Approval Specialists; Pre-K ELLA and Math/Science Curriculum Developers; CDA instructors; Private Pre-K Providers; DCCECE staff	09/06 – 08/09
			b. EC sub-group -- Benchmark proposed curricula against criteria checklist, formulated from Early Childhood Frameworks; designate “approved” curricula as comprehensive (supporting all domains) or as supplemental; identify “child centered” curricula		09/06 – 08/09
			c. I/T sub-group -- Begin process of formulating curricula recommendations for I/T (construct criteria, based on Infant/Toddler Frameworks; interview authors and publishers of proposed curricula, etc.)		09/06 –08/07
			d. School-Age sub-group – establish protocol for SA curricula recommendation structure and process		09/06 –08/07

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4. Increase the capacity of early childhood providers to deliver high quality childhood care and education through the provision of supervision, training and technical assistance	(continued) B) Arkansas Early Childhood Professional Development System (AECPPDS) Evaluation	(continued) 1. Improve coordination, comprehensive-ness and validity of AECPPDS, therefore increasing quality across early care and education programs.	(continued) a. Determine research questions for study b. Prove whether the program works as planned (summative analysis of accrued system outcomes) c. Analyze results and formulate strategies to address needed system improvements (formative analysis of desired outcomes)	(continued) DHHS/DCCECE with outside evaluators (Keystone Research); AECPPDS Steering Committee; Dept. of Ed; U of A, Fayetteville, ASU Childhood Services	(continued) 09/06 – 08/09
	C) AR Strengthening Families Initiative	1. Develop online training opportunity to enable directors and supervisors of early care programs to utilize SFI self-assessment tool, therefore building protective factors in families that they serve.	a. Write online training module in partnership with Zero to Three, and according to Arkansas law regarding mandated reporting. b. Format for online delivery, and test in selected SFI (and other) early care programs. c. Deliver training to all SFI network program d. Fully implement as component of QRS Phase One	Alliance of Children’s Trust Funds Seed Grant (Partners): AR Children’s Trust Fund; DHHS/DCCECE; DHHS/DCFS; National Zero To Three; U of A Cooperative Extension	09/06 – 08/07 09/06 – 08/07 09/06 – 08/07 09/07 – 08/09

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4. Increase the capacity of early childhood providers to deliver high quality childhood care and education through the provision of supervision, training and technical assistance	D) Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (5 local agencies with DCCE CE providing statewide coverage for all unserved areas.	1. Provide assistance and referral services to parents in selection of high quality care.	a. Establish and maintain data base (NACCRRAware) to track referral calls and determine areas of great need for expanded services.	CCR&R Agencies (5 regional agencies and 1 statewide entity)	09/06 – 0 8/09
		2 Provide technical assistance to early care providers in attaining quality approval status	b. Provide TA and resources through training, lending library and personal contacts.	CCR&R Agencies (5 regional agencies and 1 statewide entity)	09/06 – 08/09
		3. Provide technical assistance to local government, business and school/community programs to increase capacity and quality of care in designated areas.	c. Grant writing training sessions provided regarding all grant programs available through DHHS/DCCECE.	White River Planning and Development District/Children of NC AR (CCR&R)	09/06 – 08/09
			d. Business training offered to family child care homes	Southern Good Faith Fund/Women's Business Development Center	09/06 - 08/09

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4. Increase the capacity of early childhood providers to deliver high quality childhood care and education through the provision of supervision, training and technical assistance	E) CCR&R Technical Assistance Consultation Services	1. Provision of technical assistance and consultation services to assist i expansion of high quality early care and education programs	a. Contractual agreements in place with ASU/Childhood Services and Child Care Connections to deliver technical assistance and consultation services to early care providers upon referral by DCCECE and/or by self referral for services	ASU/Childhood Services Child Care Connections	09/06 – 08/09
	F) Early Care and Education Specialist Certificate	1. Provide professional development for ec staff in specialized areas	a. Publicize the course b. Conduct the 40-clock hr. of seminars, including principles of child development and an emphasis on participants' chosen speciality areas: Infant/Toddler, Preschool, School-age or Family Child Care c. Guide participants in completing the 20-clock hr. individualized professional development module	DHHS/DCCECE; ASU Childhood Services	09/06 – 08/09

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5. Increase the accessibility and affordability of high quality early care and education environments for all children	A) Economic Impact Study	1. Measure and explain the economic impact of the Child Care Industry on the economy of Arkansas, formulating a model that will analyze linkages between Child Care Industry and the economy	a. Statewide Licensed Child Care Facility Survey b. Two parent focus group sessions c. Statewide parent group telephone surveys d. Industry analysis e. Economic impact analysis f. Child Care Industry contribution to economy g. Child Care leverage effect h. Subsidies and labor force participation	University of Arkansas at Little Rock, College of Business, Institute for Economic Advancement; DHHS/DCCECE; Governor's Family Friendly Initiative	9/06 – 8/07
	B) Child Care Construction/Renovation Grants	1. Support expansion of quality child care programs through use of Community Development Block Grant fund for construction or renovation (funds are available to city or county government entities).	a. Application accepted and reviewed by DHHS/DCCECE staff b. Application reviewed by team representing AR Dept. of Economic Dev. (ADED), Planning and Development Districts, CCR&R and DHHS/DCCECE staff using scoring rubric. c. Recommendations for funding not to exceed \$750,000 referred to ADED each year d. Project required to submit plan to meet QA standards within one year of operation.	DHHS/DCCECE; AR Dept. of Economic Dev.	9/06 – 8/09

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(continued) 5. Increase the accessibility and affordability of high quality early care and education environments for all children	C) AR Child Care Facilities Guarantee Loan Fund	1. Financing strategy to support expansion of early care programs for applicants attempting to obtain bank loans.	a. Governor’s AR EC Commission Finance committee serves as loan review. (Loans guaranteed for 80% of loan; amount not to exceed a guarantee of \$25,000.) b. Applicant must submit a declination letter from bank to be eligible for loan guarantee c. Programs required to participate in business training.	DHHS/DCCECE; EC Commission Finance Committee; Participating financial institutions	9/06 – 8/09
	D) Parental Tax credit on AR State Income tax for use of Quality Approval (QA) child care settings	1. Provide an incentive for families utilizing ‘QA’ child care programs (families may apply for a refundable tax credit equal to 20% of their federal cc tax credit on state income tax forms).	a. ‘QA’ utilization status maintained b. Reports submitted to Finance and Administration offices annually c. Partnership with Dept. of Finance and Administration to provide ‘QA’ child care programs with necessary tax forms for parents	DHHS/DCCECE; Dept. of Finance and Administration	9/06 – 8/09

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(continued) 5. Increase the accessibility and affordability of high quality early care and education environments for all children	E) Arkansas Well Child Reads	1. Assist pediatricians in providing age-appropriate books for children, giving parents “prescription to read,” supporting parents as their child’s first teachers and increasing role of literacy development.	a. Grant from DHHS/DCCECE to “Well Child Reads” to support participation by pediatricians	DHHS/DCCECE; Arkansas “Well Child Reads”	9/06 – 8/09
	F) Director – Mentor Quality Initiative and School-Age Quality Initiative	1. Improve the quality of children’s early education and out-of-school programs throughout the state	a. Conduct a 2-day orientation for participants b. Provide mentors for directors of programs seeking ‘QA’ accreditation c. Provide resources for participants to facilitate progress toward accreditation	ASU Childhood Services	9/06 – 8/09

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6. Provide/support for universal, voluntary, high-quality, pre-school/full-day kindergarten	A) Expansion plan for Public Pre-K (Arkansas Better Chance)	1. To provide access to high quality Pre-K experiences for approximately 10,000 3-4 year olds, who are currently not able to be served	a. Proposal to ask legislature for additional \$20 million to fund public Pre-K, bringing total funding from general revenue to \$80 million	Early Childhood Advocates; DHHS/DCCECE; Dept. of Education	9/06 – 8/07	
			b. Proposal to ask legislature for additional \$20 million to fund public Pre-K, bringing total funding from general revenue to \$100 million		9/07 – 8/08	
	B) ABC Longitudinal Study	1. Track academic progress of children participating in ABC Pre-K program through 4 th grade benchmark exams	a. Research team completes classroom observations	DHHS/DCCECE; Department of Education; KeyStone Research Corporation	9/06 – 8/07	
			b. Research team completes child observations		9/06 – 8/07	
			c. Preliminary data analyzed, resulting strategies formulated		9/07 – 8/08	

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(continued) 6. Provide/support for universal, voluntary, high-quality, pre-school/full-day kindergarten	C) 2005 IDEA Transition Guidelines	1. Provide comprehensive and uninterrupted special education and related services to eligible children receiving services in Part C of IDEA by the child's 3 rd birthday, as they transition to Special Ed. Early Childhood Program	a. Part C Service coordinators will coordinate with Special Ed. Early childhood coordinators and Special Ed. LEA supervisors to ensure that federal and state requirements are following, allowing for a smooth transition for children and families b. Ensure that preschool children with disabilities are provided special ed. /related services in the least restrictive environment	DHHS/DDS; AR Dept. of Ed/Special Ed	9/06 – 8/09
7. Support state efforts to recruit/train/retain qualified early childhood educators/professionals	A) CDA Scholarship program	1. Provide opportunities for early care educators to attend high quality professional development at a college and receive college credit	a. CDA Advisory Committee oversees procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 2- and 4-year higher ed. Institutions are eligible to apply for participation • Review college applications • Review instructor applications • Reward student scholarships 	DHHS/DCCECE; CDA Advisory Committee	9/06 – 9/09

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(continued) 7. Support state efforts to recruit/train/retain qualified early childhood educators/professionals	B) NAEYC Associate Degree Program Accreditation	2. Establish standards for associate degree in early childhood programs	a. Recruit Arkansas colleges to participate in accreditation process b. Utilize program reviewers in Arkansas colleges	DHHS/DCCECE; NAEYC Associate Degree Program Accreditation; participating colleges	9/06 – 9/09